

Emerson Legislative Update – June 2003

SENATE APPROVES BILL TO COMBAT ABANDONED AND UNSAFE HOUSES

The Senate, by a unanimous vote, recently approved legislation to rehabilitate or remove unsafe houses. The legislation will create a stronger incentive for property owners to repair red tagged houses while they are still in good enough condition to fix. It will also allow a building or structure to be removed if it remained vacant, boarded, or both, and a significant attempt had not been made to rehabilitate the building or structure for 24 months.

STATE REPORTS NO CASES OF MONKEYPOX

The Michigan Department of Community Health has reported that there are no confirmed cases of monkeypox in the state. Currently the department is working with the Center for Disease Control to search for animals that may have come in contact with infected animals from other Great Lakes states.

Monkeypox is a viral disease of animals and humans that occurs primarily in the rain forest countries of central and western Africa. Prior to this recent discovery of monkeypox in the U.S., it had never before been found in the Western Hemisphere. Monkeypox appears to have entered the country via an infected Gambian rat, which then passed the virus to commingled prairie dogs in pet trade. Transmission can occur by direct contact, bites or closely shared air space.

2003 BUYERS' GUIDE TO AUTO INSURANCE IN MICHIGAN NOW AVAILABLE

Michigan's Office of Financial and Insurance Services recently announced the release of the 2003 Buyers' Guide to Auto Insurance in Michigan. This guide is an annual survey of automobile insurance companies and their rates for different areas of the state. The Buyers' Guide, along with other publications published by OFIS, is available online at www.michigan.gov/ofis, or by calling, toll-free, 877-999-6442.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY FORUMS TO BE HELD THROUGHOUT STATE

Michigan's Department of Management and Budget, in conjunction with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, the Department of Career Development, the Department of Corrections and the Department of Transportation, will be hosting a series of free "Business Opportunity Forums" throughout the state. The purpose of these forums is to reach as many businesses as possible to provide information about the changes that have taken place in state purchasing. To find out more information about the forums, including dates and locations, visit the website www.michigan.gov/doingbusiness, or contact Claudia Allen at 517-373-8139.